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BLAYDON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

*ANNUAL REPORT*  
*of the*  
*Medical Officer of Health*  
*for the*  
*Year 1963*



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Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Blaydon-on-Tyne.

Telephone:  
Blaydon 2822

July, 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Blaydon Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year, 1963.

The population figures show a natural increase of 164 over the figures for 1962, with an estimated population decrease of 190.

Both the birth rate and the number of births are higher than in 1962; the number of deaths as well as the death rate also show a small increase. In small population numbers, such variations as have occurred in the latter two figures could well arise by chance and, unless the trend were to persist, cannot be regarded as of significance. The infant mortality rate is lower than for 1962 and, this year, is only slightly higher than for the country as a whole. Of the 10 deaths occurring during the first four weeks of life, 8 were during the first week. Once again, no deaths were recorded from pregnancy or other maternal causes.

Of the 384 deaths during the year, 202 were the result of cardio-vascular disease while 72 were caused by cancer, figures in this latter respect being comparable with those for 1959, 1960 and 1961 when the numbers were 78, 74 and 75 respectively.

Infectious disease notifications show the usual alternate yearly increase, 437 cases being recorded compared with 70 last year, the measles figures being 383 as against 8 in 1962. 11 cases of tuberculosis were notified and the number remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 224 compared with 220 at the end of 1962. 2 deaths from this disease were recorded. During the year, 31 cases of dysentery were reported and 3 cases of food poisoning arose, for all of which routine investigations and preventive measures were carried out effectively. It is pleasing to record no cases of diphtheria, poliomyelitis or smallpox throughout the District.

Immunisation programmes continue to be pursued vigorously, with prophylaxis against smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis. Protection against all except smallpox and tuberculosis can be given singly or in various combinations. Protection against poliomyelitis is now almost exclusively by means of oral vaccine. Vaccination with B.C.G., as a protection against tuberculosis, continues to be carried out yearly. Percentage protection figures for the District compare most favourably with those both for the County and for England and Wales.



Details of the operations in the District of the Blood Donor Panel and of the Mobile X-ray Unit are embodied in the text of this Report.

Towards the end of the year, preliminary discussions and negotiations for the setting up of a Meals on Wheels Service had begun and it is confidently anticipated that a Service will be in operation by mid 1964.

In some parts of the District, and more especially in some of the post-war housing development sites, each dustbin has to be carried a considerable distance for loading into the refuse collection vehicle. This necessitates a double journey between the rear of each house and the carriageway, which is costly and time-wasting and makes the work of the loaders more laborious.

The Council readily agreed to the Department carrying out small pilot schemes in suitable selected areas, after being advised that these difficulties might be overcome, with further added advantages, by the introduction of a 'non-returnable paper sack system' of temporary refuse storage. This decision was acted upon and sacks and other necessary equipment had been ordered by the end of the year preparatory to inaugurating the pilot schemes early in 1964.

Improvement in the purity of the atmosphere is an essential priority; but the progress towards cleaner air in the District was regrettably slowed during the year after the announcement, by the Gas Industry and the Minister of Housing and Local Government, that an acute deficiency of smokeless fuel suitable for burning in open fires existed.

As this Council's programme for smoke control areas was based on the use of this type of fuel, a reassessment of the measures to be taken to implement the provisions of the Clean Air Act will have to be made. It appears probable that the problem, which has now become a national one, can only be solved by the use of hard coke in closed stoves or the introduction of gas, electric or oil burning appliances. It is generally agreed that, if such a policy were adopted, the financial burden on the rates and on householders requiring fireplace adaptations would be excessive. It can be anticipated that a solution to this problem will eventually emerge in this connection. The Council's policy of installing heating stoves in new dwellings is praiseworthy.

Inspection of food and food premises continued increasingly to occupy a large proportion of the inspectorial staff's time and all shops, stores, foodhandling and eating establishments, were inspected as often as possible and appropriate action taken where necessary. Infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations necessitated the service of written notices on occupiers in 87 cases. This course of action had the desired result and in no case was it necessary to request the Council's authority to institute legal proceedings.

Routine inspections of clubs and licensed premises were made and I am pleased to report that brewery firms, licensees, managers and club stewards generally were co-operative and anxious to attain the highest possible standard of hygiene in the premises. Nevertheless, in some licensed premises sanitary

arrangements leave much to be desired and much thought, time and money is needed to be spent to bring these establishments up to an acceptable standard.

The people of Rowlands Gill are to be congratulated on winning the Tidy Village Competition in its Class and it is an indirect tribute also to the Council for the encouragement it gave to the community and the help it has given to its staff in attaining this high standard.

I would express my thanks to members of the Health Committee and of the whole Council for their understanding and co-operation which has made my task the more pleasing, and the Department's efforts the more effective.

I would record my thanks to colleagues in other Departments of the Council for their help and collaboration when needed. By no means least, the staff of the Health Department deserve mention. I am once again indebted to the Senior Public Health Inspector, the Departmental clerk and other Departmental staff for continued excellent work throughout the year. This, combined with the good relations existing within the Department, has in no small measure contributed to the high standard which has been maintained.

I would record my thanks to the County Medical Officer and his staff for their continued most willing co-operation. Thanks are due to my Area Health Clerk for her able assistance in collecting details of work, carried out in the District as a Local Health Authority responsibility, for inclusion in this Report.

Finally, I would express appreciation to all Organisations outside of Local Government who have collaborated so willingly in supplying me with information regarding their own operations in or near the District.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN A. DRYDEN,

Medical Officer of Health.



## I. SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

Part of the northern boundary is the River Tyne from Derwent Haughs to Stella Haughs which is also the boundary between the counties of Durham and Northumberland. From Stella to where it joins Stanley Burn at the north-west extremity of the District the boundary follows the line of Blaydon, Barlow and Coal Burns and separates Blaydon and Ryton Urban Districts.

The Urban District is bounded on the West by the County Boundary via the Red, Clinty and Milkwell Burns ending at Blackhall Mill. Adjoining Blaydon Urban District to the West are parts of Prudhoe Urban, Hexham Rural and Consett Urban Districts.

The River Derwent forms the South and South-East boundary of the District and enters the Tyne East of Blaydon at Derwent Haugh.

### WARDS.

This District is at present divided into five Wards. The County of Durham (Electoral Division) Order, 1963, however, brings into effect on the ordinary day of election of County Councillors in the year 1964, a change in the number and description of Wards in the District, whereby the Rowlands Gill and High Spen Wards will become a single Ward.

- (1) **BLAYDON** — is situated on the south bank of the River Tyne and is both residential and industrial. The main industries are heavy and light engineering, iron foundries, brickworks and fireclay works. Further industrial development continued to take place in the Ward along Chainbridge Road near Scotswood Bridge. South of this, a large engineering firm commenced extensive development of its office and factory premises.
- (2) **WINLATON** — is situated to the south of Blaydon at a height of 300 feet and is basically residential. Large scale housing development has taken place in this Ward during the post-war years and is still continuing. Most of the population is employed outside the Ward in engineering on industrial Tyneside, the mining and the railway industries.
- (3) **ROWLANDS GILL** — lies low in the Derwent Valley, is semi-rural in character and is essentially residential. Post-war housing development has been, and will continue to be, concentrated in this area and some industrial development is taking place. The population, most of which is employed in the mining industry, finds employment mainly outside the Ward.
- (4) **HIGH SPEN**—is rural in character and is essentially residential. A substantial part stands above the 500 feet contour. The population is mostly concentrated in High Spen, a typical coal mining village although the industry has declined over the past few years. Apart from one industrial establishment, the population finds employment at collieries outside the Ward.
- (5) **CHOPWELL** — is mostly agricultural and forestry, the bulk of the population being concentrated in Chopwell and Blackhall Mill. Coal Mining is the chief industry in the Ward and employment is provided in the main at Chopwell Colliery. An extension to an industrial establishment in the High Spen Ward is now operating in this Ward.

## II.

## STATISTICS.

### General.

Acreage — 9,325.

Number of inhabited houses :

Council 3,781      Other 6,420      Total 10,201

Number of Other Premises : 1,727

Rateable Value : £737,775

Sum represented by a penny rate : £2,876.

### Vital

Population — 1931 — 32,248

1951 — 30,791

1963 — 30,930

Density of persons per house : 3.03

Births : Comparability Factor : 0.98

Live Births :	Male	Female	Total
Number	280	268	548
Rate per 1,000 population :			C.F. Adjusted
Blaydon U.D.		17.72	17.37
Durham County		18.20	17.80
England and Wales		18.20	—

Illegitimate Live Births :	Male	Female	Total
Number	5	16	21

Percentage of total live births : 3.83%

Still Births :	Male	Female	Total
Number	2	4	6

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births : 10.95

Total Live and Still Births : 554

Deaths : Comparability Factor : 1.18

	Male	Female	Total
Number	226	158	384
Crude Death Rate :			C.F. Adjusted
Blaydon Urban District		12.41	14.64
Durham County		11.60	14.00
England and Wales		12.20	—

The commonest causes of death during 1963 were :

1. Coronary Diseases .....	83
2. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System .....	59
3. Malignant Neoplasms at Defined Sites .....	41
4. Other Heart Diseases .....	37 (+3)
5. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .....	30 (+1)
6. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....	30

# Infant Mortality (deaths under 1 year)

	Male	Female	Total
Number	6	7	13
Infant Mortality Rates (total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births)			
Blaydon Urban District .....		23.72	
Durham County .....		22.45	
England and Wales .....		20.90	
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .....			24.67
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....			Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births).....			18.25
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births).....			14.60
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			25.27
Causes of Infant Deaths :			
Prematurity .....	4		
Congenital Heart Disease .....	3		
Broncho-Pneumonia .....	2		
Asphyxia Neonatorum .....	2		
Meningomyelocele .....	1		
Anencephaly .....	1		

## Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

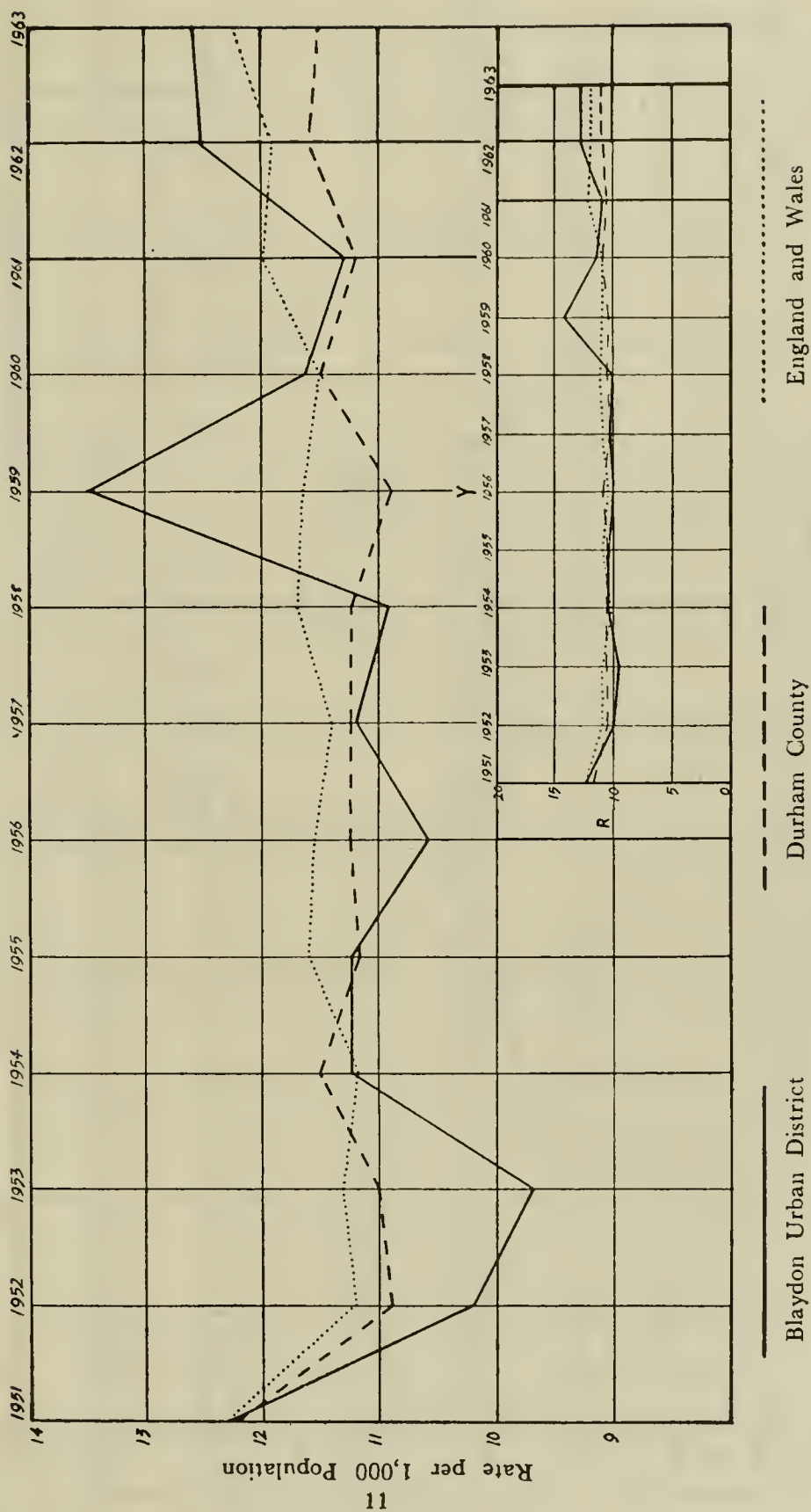
Number of deaths .....	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .....	0.00

The natural population increase for the year, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, was 164.

**THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF  
DEATH DURING 1963.**

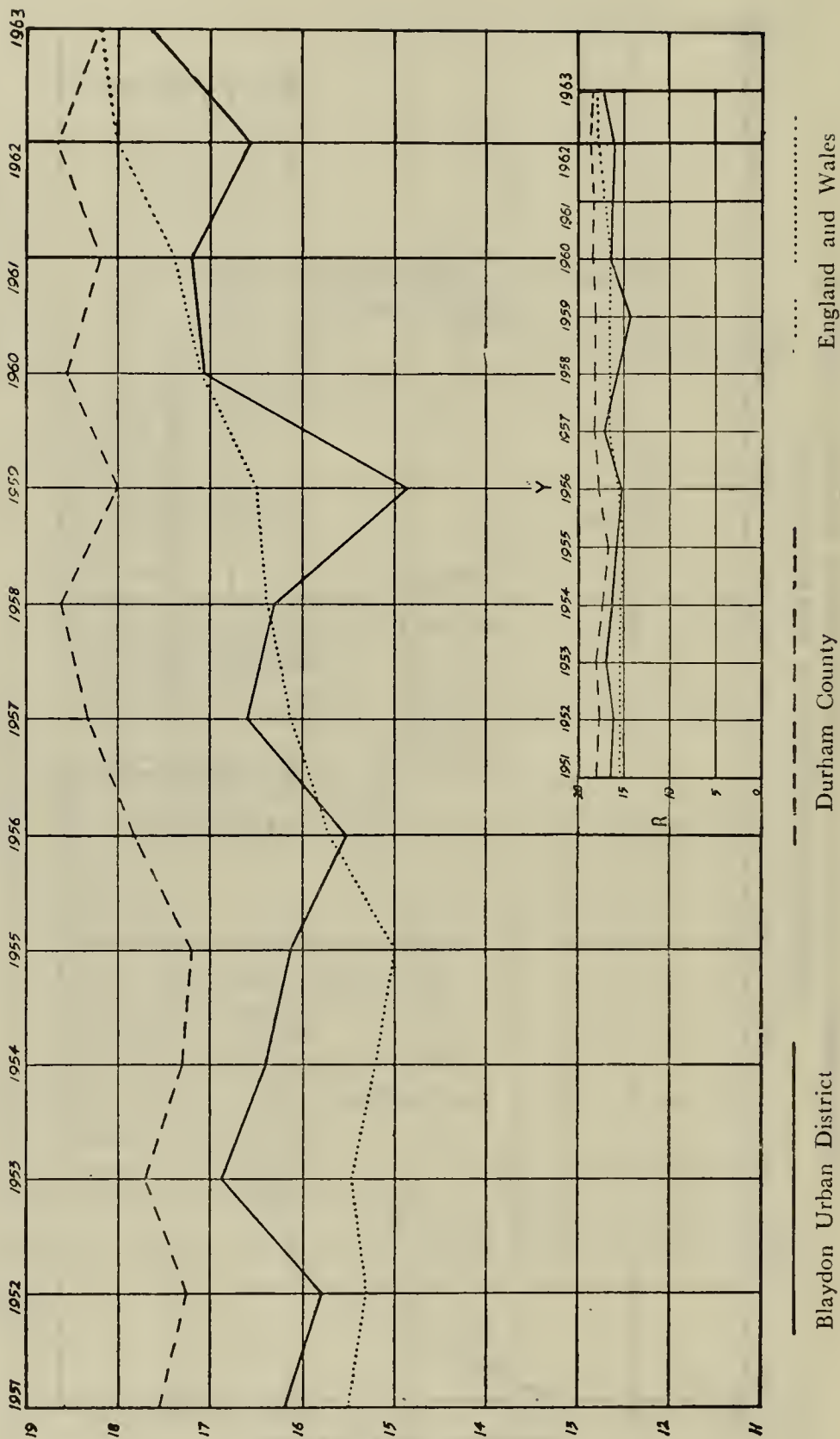
CAUSES OF DEATH		MALES	FEMALES	Total
1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	2	—	2
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease ... ..	1	—	1
4	Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infection ... ..	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
8	Measles ... ..	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	—	—	—
10	Malignant Neoplasm-Stomach ... ..	6	3	9
11	Malignant Neoplasm-Lung and Bronchus	25	1	26
12	Malignant Neoplasm-Breast ... ..	—	2	2
13	Malignant Neoplasm-Uterus ... ..	—	4	4
14	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	16	30
15	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia... ..	—	1	1
16	Diabetes ... ..	—	1	1
17	Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	39	20	59
18	Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	51	32	83
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	1	2	3
20	Other Heart Diseases .. ..	14	23	37
21	Other Circulatory Diseases .. ..	8	12	20
22	Influenza ... ..	1	1	2
23	Pneumonia ... ..	6	3	9
24	Bronchitis ... ..	23	3	26
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	2	—	2
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	4	1	5
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	—	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	1	1	2
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	2	—	2
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ..	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations ... ..	3	4	7
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ..	10	20	30
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	2	—	2
34	All Other Accidents ... ..	6	6	12
35	Suicide ... ..	5	1	6
36	Homicide and Operations of War ... ..	—	—	—
TOTALS		226	158	384

Graph comparing death rates of BLAYDON URBAN DISTRICT, DURHAM  
COUNTY and ENGLAND and WALES since 1951



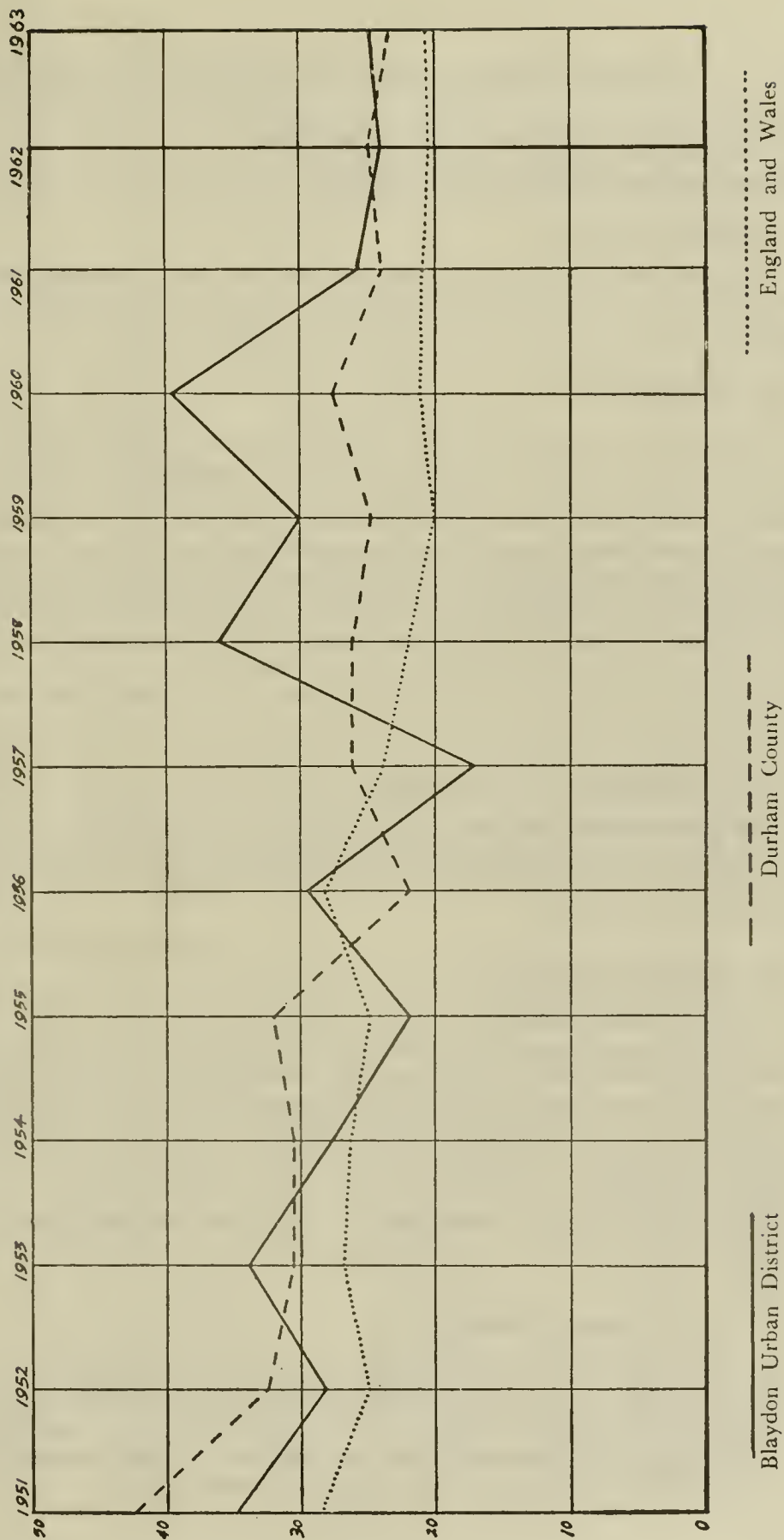


Graph comparing birth rates of BLAYDON URBAN DISTRICT, DURHAM  
COUNTY and ENGLAND and WALES since 1951,





Graph comparing infant mortality rates for BLAYDON URBAN DISTRICT, DURHAM  
COUNTY and ENGLAND and WALES since 1951



### **III. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES**

#### **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.**

##### **Hospital and Specialist Services Provision.**

###### **(I) Hospital Services.**

Hospital facilities for the District are provided, through the North-West Durham Hospital Management Committee, by the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.

###### **(a) General.**

The Royal Victoria Infirmary and the General Hospital, Newcastle, and the Bensham General and the Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, Gateshead, receive the majority of medical and surgical cases from the District. Some cases are also referred to and treated at the Hexham General Hospital when convenient. Hospital in-patient and out-patient treatment for suitable cases is also obtainable at the Dunston Hill Hospital; and the Whickham and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital undertakes the treatment of a limited number of medical and surgical cases. Lee Hill Hospital, Lanchester, has a bed capacity of 300 and caters for patients who are chronically sick, orthopaedic or geriatric in category. It also provides, under the National Assistance Act, Part III Accommodation for Patients.

###### **(b) Midwifery and Gynaecology.**

The great majority of cases of this nature which require hospital treatment are sent either to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle, the Bensham General or the Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, Gateshead, or the Richard Murray Hospital, Shotley Bridge.

###### **(c) Infectious Diseases.**

###### **(i) Tuberculosis.**

Provision is made for the hospital treatment of tuberculosis cases in sanatoria throughout the counties of Durham and Northumberland. Norman's Riding Infectious Diseases Hospital, Winlaton, is used as a sanatorium for both male and female patients. There is a Chest Clinic attached to the Whickham and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital where a Chest Physician attends and holds regular clinical sessions. Early diagnosis, and admission to hospital promptly thereafter, of such sufferers has now been achieved resulting in a much improved prospect of recovery and complete cure.

###### **(ii) Venereal Diseases.**

Specialist treatment is available for these complaints at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4, where every effort is made to maintain secrecy and avoid attendance becoming generally known. General practitioners are able to refer their patients to the Clinic for necessary investigation and treatment.

### (iii) Other Infectious Diseases.

Cases of infectious disease requiring isolation, other than tuberculosis, venereal diseases, or smallpox, are treated either at the Sheriff Hill Infectious Diseases Hospital, Gateshead, or the Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne. Smallpox cases, should they occur in the District, would be admitted to Langley Park Isolation Hospital.

### (d) Mental Health.

The Lee Hill Hospital, Lanchester, provides 44 beds for the accommodation of the mentally sick. Acutely mentally ill patients are normally admitted to St. Nicholas' Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne. Less severe cases can also be received there for care and treatment.

### (e) Convalescent Home.

The establishment, formerly known as the Castle Hill Convalescent Home situate in Ryton Urban District, is now styled the Country Branch Annexe of the Royal Victoria Infirmary. It is no longer strictly a convalescent home and does not accept patients directly but only for pre or post Royal Victoria Infirmary treatment. There are 95 beds, 50 for women patients and the remainder for men.

## (2) Laboratory Services.

The Public Health Laboratory Service for the District operates from the Public Health Laboratory, Pathological Institute, General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4. By arrangement with the Durham County Council, all specimens for bacteriological examination are sent there by general practitioners, patients and Health Departments of Local Authorities, investigated and reported upon free of charge.

## (3) Blood Transfusion Service.

The Regional Blood Transfusion Service has its Headquarters in the General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4. It provides all necessary service for this District. It has a Donor Panel Department which organises and maintains Blood Donor Panels in each locality. In this District, during 1963, sessions were held as under. The figures show the strength of the panels on the dates listed, also the number of donations which were received during the year.

Name of Panel	Session Centre	Date of Session	Strength of Panel	Total Attendance
Blaydon	Trinity Church Hall, John Street	18th January	147	82
		12th July	162	86
		27th December	153	74
Chopwell	Co-operative Hall,	7th June	142	78
		6th December	146	92
Rowlands Gill	Miners Welfare Hall, Strathmore Road	9th April	157	93
		1st October	156	88
Winlaton	Winlaton & District Social Club, Hallgarth Hall	4th February	148	87
		29th July	160	76

Further sessions will be arranged in the District during 1964.

**(4) Mass Miniature Radiography.**

The Mass Radiography Unit which serves this District is Unit 1A, which is based on the Newcastle General Hospital, 418 Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4. A Mobile Unit visits the District at times throughout the year and holds public sessions and sessions at industrial establishments. The statistics for this District are given below.

	Number of Miniature Films			Number referred to Chest Clinic		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Industry .....	554	77	631	6	—	6
Public .....	264	318	582	19	7	26
Totals .....	818	395	1,213	25	7	32

The industrial establishments visited during 1963 were :  
Churchill Gears Ltd.  
British Railway Sheds

Extensive surveys are carried out in alternate years and, as in 1961, a more extensive survey was carried out again in 1963.

**Local Authority Provision.**

**(1) Local Health Authority.**

The Local Health Authority for the Urban District is the Durham County Council which is responsible for the following Health Services.

- (a) Health Centres.
- (b) Maternity and Child Welfare
- (c) Midwifery
- (d) Health Visiting
- (e) Home Nursing
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation
- (g) Ambulances
- (h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care of sick persons
- (i) Home Help Service
- (j) Mental Health

**(a) Health Centres.**

There are no Health Centres within the meaning of the Act in operation in the District.

**(b) Maternity and Child Welfare.**

Clinics for the treatment of minor ailments in school children, for dental treatment, maternity and child welfare and for sunray treatment, are provided by the Education and Health Departments of Durham County Council at various Centres throughout the District, where mothers and children may attend. Welfare



foods are also distributed from these Centres. Centres in the District hold sessions, provide treatment and supply welfare foods as under :—

Address of Centre		Sessions
Blaydon, Axwell Park Clinic, Shibdon Road	Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic	Tuesday mornings & alternate Thursday afternoons & Friday mornings
	Dental Clinic	First Friday morning in month
	Distribution of Welfare Foods	Tuesday all day Friday afternoons
Chopwell, Trinity Methodist Church Hall	Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic	Alternate Monday mornings
	Distribution of Welfare Foods	Monday mornings
Rowlands Gill, Miners' Welfare Hall,	Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic	Alternate Wednesdays
	Distribution of Welfare Foods	Alternate Wednesdays
High Spen Co-operative Hall	Distribution of Welfare Foods	Tuesday afternoons
Winlaton, Litchfield Lane Methodist Church (Until 29th October)	Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic	Tuesdays weekly
	Distribution of Welfare Foods	Tuesday all day
Winlaton Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (from 5th November)	Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic	Tuesdays weekly and alternate Thursday afternoons
	Distribution of Welfare Foods	Tuesday all day
Winlaton Mill, Village Hall	Distribution of Welfare Foods	Alternate Tuesday mornings between 11 a.m. and 12 noon

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Winlaton was opened and brought into operation on the 5th November, 1963 and provides excellent facilities in contrast to the poor standards which existed in the old clinic.

Assistant Welfare Medical Officers and the Dental Officer attend certain sessions at Centres, information regarding which can be obtained at the appropriate Centre.

On the stated days, the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are open from 9-30 a.m.-12 noon and from 1-30 p.m.-4 p.m.; and the Centres for the distribution of Welfare Foods from 10 a.m.-12 noon and 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

### (c) Midwifery.

An expectant mother can have the services of a doctor who undertakes maternity work as part of the General Practitioner Services organised by the Durham Executive Council. Ante-natal and post-natal care are available at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics at Axwell Park, Blaydon, on Friday mornings and at Winlaton on alternate Thursday mornings. A domiciliary midwifery service is also provided. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the District midwives

are given below :—

Ward	Name	Address	Tel. No.
Blaydon	Mrs. H. Waggott	17 Oswin Street, Blaydon	Blaydon 2351
Winlaton	Mrs. K. Hodgson	36 Thornton Crescent, Loup Farm Est., Blaydon	
Rowlands Gill	Mrs. M. I. Moan	11 Olga Terrace, Highfield	Rowl. Gill 502
High Spen	Mrs. M. I. Moan	11 Olga Terrace, Highfield	Rowl. Gill 502
Chopwell	Mrs. I. Holliday	38 Peartree Terrace, Chopwell	Chopwell 223
Blackhall Mill	Mrs. M. I. Moan	11 Olga Terrace, Highfield	Rowl. Gill 502

192 births in the District were notified by midwives during the year.

**(d) Health Visiting.**

Health Visitors attend persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice to expectant and nursing mothers on the care of young children and to aged or ill persons; also to stress the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection. The names and addresses of the District Health Visitors and the number and types of domiciliary visits carried out in Blaydon Urban District are given below :—

Ward	Name	Address
High Spen and Rowlands Gill	Miss G. A. Bryant	22 Cowen Terrace, Rowlands Gill
Blaydon (part of)	Miss G. Cato	51 Aquila Drive, Heddon-on-the-Wall Northumberland
Chopwell and Blackhall Mill	Mrs. E. Robinson	Swiss Cottage, Hamsterley Mill Estate, Rowlands Gill
Blaydon (part of) Winlaton (part of)	Miss J. Sanderson	3 The Crescent, Bridgehill, Blackhill
Blaydon (part of) Winlaton (part of)	Mrs. F. M. Cavanagh	2 Woodlands Road, Shotley Bridge Shotley Bridge 3158

**Domiciliary Visits**

Maternity and Child Welfare .....	8,732
Tuberculosis .....	377
Mentally Sub-normal .....	290
Schools .....	794
General Health .....	107
Aged People .....	1,213
	<hr/>
TOTAL —	11,513

**(e) Home Nursing.**

A Home Nursing Service is provided in the District as the responsibility of the Local Health Authority. Any requests for the services of a Home Nurse should be made to the Superintendent of Nursing at County Hall, Durham (Tel. No. Durham 4411); or to one of the District Nurses whose names, addresses and



telephone numbers are listed below :—

Ward	Name	Address	Tel. No.
Blaydon	Mrs. K. M. Chambers	Broad Oak, Axwell Park, Blaydon	Blaydon 153
Chopwell	Miss G. Hearne	2 Trent Street, Chopwell	Chopwell 221
High Spen	Mrs. E. Angus	13 Barkwood Road, Rowlands Gill	Rowl. Gill 629
Rowlands Gill	Miss E. Graham	Dunswood, Lockhaugh, Rowlands Gill	Rowl. Gill 659
Winlaton	Mrs. L. I. Auckland	6 Naylor Avenue, Winlaton Mill	Blaydon 203

17,494 visits were made by the District Nurses during the year.

#### (f) Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination against smallpox may be obtained free of charge on application to any medical practitioner who has agreed to give service within the National Health Service General Practitioner Service; and for children also at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

Immunisation, against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, may also be obtained free of charge on application to Maternity and Child Welfare Centres; or from any General Practitioner in the National Health Service.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis may be carried out, in appropriate circumstances, by the Chest Physician at the Chest Clinic at Whickham. A scheme for the vaccination with B.C.G. of all non-immune school children over eleven years is being carried out yearly by the Assistant County Medical Officer for the Area.

Immunisation against poliomyelitis is available free of charge for all unprotected persons under forty years of age and not less than six months old on the date of application, for all expectant mothers and for certain other specified persons on application to general practitioners, at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, to the County Health Department in Durham or to the Assistant County Medical Officer for the Area. Sessions are also arranged at clinics in the District where eligible persons may receive such protection. Protection by oral vaccine as well as by injection is now offered.

Statistics of immunisations and vaccinations carried out in the District are given in Part IV of this report.

#### (g) Ambulance Service.

The Durham County Council Health Department controls and provides the ambulance facilities for the Administrative County.

All requests for an ambulance should be made to the Message Receiving Centre at the Ambulance Headquarters, Control, Framwellgate Moor, Durham (Tel. No. Durham 3426) which is responsible for such service to the Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham Urban Districts. The Centre is open for message reception for 24 hours a day.

A General Service Sub-Depot at Winlaton deals, on instruction from Durham, with routine work of the service from 8-0 a.m. to 8-0 p.m. Monday to Friday, and from 8-0 a.m. to 4-0 p.m. on Saturdays.

Details of the work carried out in respect of No. 1 Health Area are given below :—

Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases	Journeys	Miles
1,593	18,167	3,782	107,636

#### (h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care of Sick Persons.

Nursing equipment for sick persons is provided, on request by medical practitioners, district nurses and hospital almoners. Invalid chairs are also available and extra nourishment or bedding can be supplied to patients suffering from tuberculosis. A charge is normally made for this service but, in certain circumstances, the charge may be reduced or waived altogether.

The underlisted equipment can be so supplied and equipment was received by 138 residents of Blaydon Urban District during 1963 :—

Air-rings	Bedrests	Mattresses (Sorbo)
Bed-Cages	Adult Cots	Rubber Sheeting
Bed Packs	Commodore	Fracture Boards
Bedsteads (Iron)	Chairs (Push)	Eneuresis Sets
Lifting Poles	Chairs (Junior Push)	Junior Spinal Carriages
Dunlopillo Cushions	Chairs (Rim-Driven)	Urinals
Bedpans	Leg Rests	

Limited accommodation is available in convalescent homes provided by voluntary agencies and the County Council and information can be obtained from the County Health Department. Domiciliary visits are made to patients at home by Health Visitors and District Nurses.

#### (i) Home Help Services.

Domestic help is provided for households where such help is needed because of the presence of any person who is ill, an expectant mother, lying-in, mentally ill, aged or a child not over school age. Requests for the services of a Home Help can be made to the Assistant Organiser for the Area, Miss Rowlands, 65, Wakenshaw Road, Gilesgate, Durham, who was appointed Assistant Organiser of Home Helps on the 16th December, 1963. Anyone wishing to contact her can do so at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, Axwell Park, Blaydon, every Friday morning between 9 and 11 a.m. (Tel. No. Blaydon, 3291); or at the County Hall, Durham (Tel. No. Durham 4411) on other weekdays; or at her home (Tel. No. Durham 5862).

Mrs. I. Caley of Ryton, who has been Assistant Home Help Organiser for the Area for thirteen years, retired on the 30th November, 1963, and I would like to express appreciation of her earnest and untiring services during her term of office.

Details of work undertaken by the Home Help Service in No. 1 Health Area (Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham Urban Districts) during the year are given below:

Number of cases at 1-1-63 .....	360
New cases served during year .....	233
Total number of cases served during the year .....	593
Cases terminated during year .....	182
Cases served at 31-12-63 .....	411
Number of Home Helps employed at 31-12-63.....	244
Visits made by Assistant Organiser during year ....	5.074

### **(j) Mental Health.**

Under the Mental Health Act, the Local Health Authority is responsible for domiciliary supervision, care and after care of the mentally sick and the educationally sub-normal.

An Adult Residential Training Centre for the Educationally Subnormal of the County has been opened at Lanchester. Residents live-in from Monday to Friday of each week, returning home at the week-end.

For non-adults, a similar but non-residential Junior Training Centre is established at Consett. There is also a Day Centre at Gateshead for the Educationally Subnormal which can be attended by residents from Whickham, Dunston and Swalwell. There are two such Centres, the Junior Training Centre for boys and girls under sixteen years, and the Senior Training Centre for older boys.

### **(2) Local Sanitary Authority.**

The Urban District Council is the Local Sanitary Authority and the work carried out by the District Health Department is discussed in detail later in the Report.

### **Executive Council Provision.**

The Durham Executive Council is responsible for the provision of the General Medical and Dental, the Pharmaceutical and the Supplementary Ophthalmic Services for the District. Medical practices in the District are largely partnerships of two or more doctors.

## **EDUCATION ACT, 1944.**

### **Local Authority.**

The Durham County Council is the Local Education Authority for the Urban District.

### **School Health Services.**

The School Health Services are provided by the County Council. They are in charge of the County Medical Officer who, as Principal School Medical Officer, carries out the requirements of the Act through his Deputy and staff. The services provide for the systematic medical inspection and for the medical and dental treatment of school children. Special School Clinics have been built—often a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre functions in the same building—where a School Medical Officer attends on a sessional basis and also has routine attendances at the actual schools medically supervised.

When a child is found at medical examination to require specialist examination, arrangements are made, with the agreement of the parents and the family doctor, for the child to attend the appropriate hospital or clinic. Facilities are provided at school clinics for the treatment of minor ailments, defective vision, dental and speech defects. Special schools are provided for handicapped children who are educationally subnormal or delicate. Arrangements are made when necessary for other handicapped children to be placed in special schools maintained by other Authorities.



## **HOUSING ACTS, 1924-1957.**

Old peoples bungalows and flats, provided by the Council, exist throughout the District with concentrations at Winlaton, Rowlands Gill and Chopwell. In addition to these, an old peoples' community centre, with residential accommodation together with a resident warden and provided with many amenities, was opened in 1963 at Winlaton and further building of this nature is in progress at Winlaton and Chopwell.

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951.**

### **Section 47—Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.**

Although the Council are authorised under these Acts, in certain cases, to apply for compulsory powers to remove persons in need of care and attention, in most cases people are anxious to remain in their own homes and it has not been found necessary during this year to take such action. Whilst there is increasing evidence of persons who are aged, infirm, living alone and in need of some degree of assistance, with the co-operation of the Home Help Service and the Welfare Department of the Local Health Authority, and the National Assistance Board, it has been possible to effect improvement in the welfare of these persons in their homes or by admission to Part III Accommodation on a voluntary basis. As a result, no recourse to compulsory powers has been needed.

Hostel accommodation is provided by the County in No. 1 Health Area at :—

“The Hermitage,” Front Street, Whickham. Tel. No. Whickham 887372 and  
“Winton House,” Parkhead Estate, Winlaton. Tel. No. Blaydon 290.

In May, 1963, work commenced in connection with a County Council hostel at Fern Dene Park, Ryton. This hostel will provide 45 beds together with dining room, lounge, quiet room, visitors room, utility rooms and laundry together with residential accommodation for the matron and assistant matron.

Residents of the District requiring such type of accommodation can also, in addition, be admitted to any of the County Hostels throughout Durham County. Information regarding these can be obtained from the Assistant County Medical Officer.

59 residents of Blaydon Urban District are now accommodated in residential Part III Accommodation, 40 males and 19 females.

### **Section 50—Burial and Cremation of the Dead.**

Under the above Section, Local Authorities are required to arrange for the burial or cremation of the dead where no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are otherwise available.

No instance arose in 1963 where it was necessary to use the powers provided.

IV. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES

PREVALENCE.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year was 437 compared with 72 for 1962. Details are as follows :—

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO I.D. HOSPITALS	CASES CONFIRMED BY LABORATORY
Scarlet Fever ... ..	5	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	4	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	383	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis			
Paralytic ... ..	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis ... ..	—	—	—
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	31	—	31
Typhoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	3	—	3
Tuberculosis—Respiratory ....	8	—	—
Meninges and C.N.S. ...	—	—	—
Other Forms ....	3	1	—
Totals	437	1	34

TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1963, SHOWING AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTIONS.

Disease	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	Unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Measles	14	32	53	59	69	152	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	383
Dysentery	1	—	—	2	—	16	2	1	9	—	—	—	—	31
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3	3	—	—	11
Totals	17	32	53	62	69	174	3	5	11	3	5	1	2	437

TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1963 AS COMPARED WITH 1962

Disease	No. of Cases			
	1962		1963	
	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	4	1	1	4
Whooping Cough	30	14	1	3
Measles	5	3	187	196
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	14	17
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	2
Tuberculosis	6	5	5	6
Totals	46	24	209	228



### Scarlet Fever.

The policy of home treatment of this disease has continued where satisfactory isolation arrangements were possible. When hospital isolation is considered necessary, admission to Sheriff Hill Hospital is arranged.

### Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

### Poliomyelitis.

No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year.

### Smallpox.

No cases were notified.

### Dysentery.

31 cases of dysentery were notified during the year.

### Food Poisoning.

3 cases were notified.

### Tuberculosis.

8 cases of respiratory tuberculosis, and 3 cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis, were notified during the year. 2 deaths from this disease were reported. Details of the incidence of this disease and the numbers of persons currently registered are given below :—

Table A — Case incidence and mortality notified during 1963.

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Totals		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
On Register at 1-1-63	81	87	168	29	23	52	110	110	220
New Cases	4	4	8	—	3	3	4	7	11
Cases removed into District	1	2	3	2	—	2	3	2	5
Total	86	93	179	31	26	57	117	119	236
Recovered	2	2	4	1	1	2	3	3	6
Cases removed out of District	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
Died	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
On Register on 31-12-63	81	90	171	29	24	53	110	114	224

**Table B — Age group distribution of new cases notified (including inward transfers).**

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1 — 4	—	—	—	—
5 — 14	—	2	—	—
15 — 24	—	1	—	1
25 — 34	1	1	—	—
35 — 44	1	—	—	1
45 — 54	1	—	—	—
55 — 64	1	—	—	1
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Age not known	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	4	—	3

## CONTROL.

Below are given statistics and information of the measures which have been taken for the protection of residents in the District against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Smallpox and Tuberculosis.

### Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

Protection against these three infections can be given separately or jointly and the figures below give information in respect of Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

#### Diphtheria.

	1960	1961	1962	1963
Primary .....	29	207	149	172
Boosters .....	2	2	—	—
	31	209	149	172

#### Whooping Cough.

	1960	1961	1962	1963
Primary .....	26	201	150	172
Boosters .....	1	1	—	—
	27	202	150	172

#### Tetanus.

	1960	1961	1962	1963
Primary .....	28	192	140	172
Boosters .....	1	2	—	—
	29	194	140	172

## Poliomyelitis.

### Area Statistics.

By the 31st December, 1963, 24,787 persons had received primary poliomyelitis immunisation in the Area comprising the Urban Districts of Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham. Of these 18,107 had received booster doses in addition.

### District Statistics.

Primary vaccinations and boosters given during the year 1963 are as shown below :—

#### Primary Vaccinations (Injections and Oral).

##### Salk (Injections).

During 1963, 98 primary courses of Salk injections were given in addition to 150 third injections and 29 fourth injections.

##### Sabin (Oral).

158 booster doses and 534 primary courses of Oral vaccine were given during the year.

## Smallpox.

### Primary Vaccination

Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years or over	Total
27	35	10	23	65	160

### Re-Vaccinations

Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years or over	Total
—	—	—	12	59	71

## Tuberculosis.

### B.C.G. Vaccination

School	Number Vaccinated	Number Heat Positive	Non-consents	Total Eligible
Blaydon East Modern .....	159	26	12	248
Blaydon Grammar .....	88	8	12	116
Blaydon Roman Catholic ....	84	7	5	105
Chopwell Modern .....	49	2	13	74
Highfield County .....	43	4	—	52
Highfield Roman Catholic ....	10	—	5	20
High Spen Modern .....	81	4	16	105
Hookergate Grammar .....	140	10	2	159
Stella Roman Catholic .....	15	1	—	21
Winlaton Modern .....	103	10	10	160
Total	772	72	75	1,060

## **V.**

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

### **Water Supply.**

All the houses in the District are supplied with good quality water from the Water Companies' mains. Part of the township of Blaydon is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. The remainder of the District is supplied by Durham County Water Board. The supply is continuous and plentiful.

The bacteriological quality of the water is under constant observation and samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory by this Department proved satisfactory.

The engineers of the Water Undertakings have kindly supplied the following information respecting supplies in the Area.

#### **(a) Durham County Water Board.**

7,537 premises in this District are supplied by the Board.

Of the 23 samples taken to check the bacteriological quality of the water, none were found unsatisfactory and 19 were classed as excellent.

Apart from the usual extensions of mains required by housing developments, no major works were carried out by the Board.

Work on the new Honey Hill Treatment Works, referred to in last year's report, is still progressing and will, when completed, supply an improved quality of water to this and adjacent Districts.

#### **(b) Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.**

2,406 premises in this District are supplied by the Company.

Throughout the region supplied by the Company, of 1,250 samples taken, all but one were classified as of excellent quality, the exception being classified as satisfactory. Independent samples were, on complete investigation, also of the same high standard.

A further 465 yards of 4" diameter new water pipes were laid in connection with industrial and housing development during the year,

### **Rivers and Streams.**

No complaints were received during the year which necessitated the institution of formal action.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

The following table indicates the number and types of closet accommodation in the District.

Increase or Decrease during the Year							
Sanitary Accommodation	Number at 1-1-63	By Conversion	By Improvement	By New Houses	Discontinued: Houses Demolished, etc.	Total Increase or Decrease	Number at 31-12-63
Water-closets	12,491	+1	+37	+233	-44	+227	12,718
Ash-closets	56	-1	—	—	-10	-11	45
Ashpit privies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

### Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

The administration and supervision is the responsibility of the Health Department. The removal of household, shop and factory refuse is carried out by direct labour.

In the interest of economy and efficiency of the cleansing service, the District is divided into two, as follows :—

- (a) Blaydon and Winlaton Wards with garage and depot at Hallgarth, Winlaton.
- (b) Rowlands Gill, High Spen and Chopwell Wards with garage and depot at Chopwell.

Houses, occupied by miners receiving concessionary coal, predominate in the latter wards and this necessitates a twice weekly emptying of a majority of the dust bins; dust bins and ash closets in the remaining part of the District are emptied at least once a week. The work was carried out regularly and, on the whole, satisfactorily throughout the year.

Refuse from both shop premises and dwelling-houses still continues to become increasingly lighter and more bulky and, to facilitate its removal, more up to date vehicles of larger carrying capacity and fitted with mechanism for compacting refuse during loading are gradually being introduced into the cleansing service. Two such vehicles now operate in the District and an order for another was placed in December.

Trade refuse from factories, offices and shop premises is removed on request, for which reasonable charges are made.

At the end of the year, the refuse collection service establishment comprised, 1 foreman, 4 chargehand loaders, 17 loaders and 3 refuse tip workmen.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

The Council are represented on the Tyneside Sewage Disposal Working Committee, a body comprising representatives from all riparian authorities both



north and south of the River Tyne, whose aims and objects are to alleviate pollution of the river by crude sewage.

The Council aims at 100% treatment of sewage within its District and the following table gives some indication of the proposed schemes which have been agreed upon to date :—

Area to be served	Proposed Works	Estimated Cost	Remarks
High Spen and Rowlands Gill Wards	Abandon High Spen South Sewage Disposal Works and construct gravity sewer to Lockhaugh Disposal Works	£13,000	Scheme with Minister.
High Spen and Rowlands Gill Wards	Extensions to works to bring effluent up to Royal Commission standard and cater for future population increase	£60,000	Scheme with Minister.
Chopwell Ward	Abandon Blackhall Mill Sewage Disposal Works and construct new works on adjacent site	£50,000	Scheme under consideration by Council

### Atmospheric Pollution.

This Council's contribution to the National Survey of Atmospheric Pollution being carried out by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research continued during the year and daily recorded measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide were forwarded each month to the Department's Warren Spring Laboratory.

The following table gives some indication of the concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the lower part of the Blaydon Ward. As the measuring instrument is sited at the Council Offices, which is adjacent to a congested area of dwelling-houses and not far removed from the Blaydon Haughs industrial site, the readings can be considered to be of the maximum concentrations to be expected in this Area.

Table Showing Measurements of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide during 1963

Month	Sulphur dioxide. Microgrammes/cubic-metre			Smoke concentrate. Microgrammes/cubic-metre		
	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Max.	Min.	Avg.
January .....	632	118	332	316	104	201
February .....	670	104	363	363	44	222
March .....	604	89	201	340	30	103
April .....	568	50	257	291	35	112
May .....	425	51	135	165	29	78
June .....	492	32	187	184	32	93
July .....	314	51	130	154	30	69
August .....	291	45	107	81	14	32
September .....	480	58	187	159	40	53
October .....	366	82	190	179	28	85
November .....	608	92	297	273	69	141
December .....	607	214	398	421	134	232



It will be noticed that the smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations are higher during the winter months which, no doubt, is due to the increased amount of smoke producing fuel being burned during this period.

It is to be regretted that the Council's Smoke Control programme has had to be temporarily halted owing to the deficiency of smokeless fuels suitable for burning in open inset grates, and no appreciable improvement in the Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide concentrations can be envisaged until the Council are able to implement fully the provisions of the Clean Air Act relating to Smoke Control Areas.

The first two Orders, made in 1962, in respect of Smoke Control Areas Nos. 1 and 2, involving 248 and 481 premises respectively, became operative during the year.

No. 3 Smoke Control Area, comprising 317 premises, was subject to an Order, which was submitted to the Minister but had not been confirmed by the end of the year.

For obvious reasons, no further progress was made respecting Smoke Control Area No. 4.

### **Noise Abatement.**

It was not found necessary to institute any formal action under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

Two complaints were received from occupiers of houses adjacent to factory premises in connection with alleged noise nuisances. Informal meetings with the management of the firm concerned, who willingly co-operated with the Health Department staff by carrying out suggested works of sound insulation and machine modification, resulted in an appreciable reduction in the noise levels emanating from the factory premises.

### **Moveable Dwellings and Caravan Sites.**

There are no licensed caravan sites under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Planning application for the development of land at High Spen as a holiday caravan site was received but a decision on this project had not been made by the end of the year.

### **Offensive Trades.**

No trades, business or manufacturers, defined as 'offensive trades' under Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, are established in the District.

### **Shops Act, 1950.**

Having a population of over 20,000, this Council exercises powers under this Act.

Visits were made to shop premises from time to time for the purposes of the Act and it was found that the provisions relating to closing hours' restrictions were generally complied with by the occupiers.

The attention of a number of shop proprietors was drawn to the lack of facilities required, in connection with the health and comfort of shop workers, to conform with the Act. These requirements were complied with without having to institute any formal action.

The anomalous situation still exists regarding mobile shops which are not subject to any jurisdiction whatsoever under the Shops Act as are static shop premises.

### **Hairdressers and Barbers.**

Routine inspections of Hairdressing Establishments were carried out during the year and, where contraventions of the Byelaws were found, written notices were served upon the occupiers. Close liaison between public health inspectors and the local branch of the National Hairdressers Federation helped, in no small measure, towards achieving a much improved standard of hygiene in respect of personnel, equipment and premises.

### **Factories.**

The number of factories on the Register at the end of the year was 105.

40 inspections were made for the purposes of provisions as to health. No infringements of the Act were found which required statutory action.

In 13 cases, certain contraventions of Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1961, relating to sanitary accommodation were brought to the notice of factory owners informally and, in 8 cases, satisfactory remedial measures were taken. Further appropriate action will be taken in respect of the remaining contraventions during 1964.

### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

#### **(a) Rodent Control.**

Treatments of sewers were carried out twice during the year in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and undoubtedly reduced the rat population both in sewers and surface infestations. All complaints received were investigated and suitable methods of treatments carried out.

The Council's refuse tips were kept under constant observation and measures of control carried out when and where necessary.

The number of inspections and treatments of surface infestations are shown in the following table :—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				Agricultural
	Non-Agricultural				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols (1), (2) and (3)	
Number of properties in Local Authority's District	23	10334	1750	12107	54
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	—	51	42	93	4
(b) Survey under the Act	23	—	67	92	36
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	8	11	19	1
Number of infested properties treated	10	53	65	112	18

Once again the most troublesome infestations occurred on the south embankment of the River Tyne, mainly in and around factory premises and sewer outfalls from Scotswood Bridge to Blaydon Quay, but the vigilance of the Council's Rodent Operator successfully kept the number of rats down to a minimum.

#### (b) Insect Control.

The increasing use by householders of residual insecticides, which can now be purchased at reasonable prices, has been of great value in minimising the incidence of such insects as the bed bug, flea and louse and very few infestations by these human parasites were brought to the notice of the Department. During the year the most frequent insect infestations met with have been those of cockroach, furniture beetle and clover mite.

All reported infestations by insects were investigated and insecticides issued and advice given on their proper use.

#### Offices.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, received the Royal Assent on the 31st July, 1963, and will come into operation during 1964. Certain provisions, with regard to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, accommodation for clothing, facilities for taking meals and fire precautions, the enforcement of which has in the past been difficult owing to limited legislation, will under the new Act give added powers to local authorities for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in such premises.

### **Cinemas.**

On inspection, the condition with regard to cleanliness and sanitary accommodation provisions at the three cinemas operating in the District was found to be satisfactory.

### **Disinfection of Houses.**

A supply of germicidal fluid and disinfectant powder is kept in store for use by householders in cases of infectious diseases. If and when found necessary, fumigation by the public health inspectorate is carried out.

### **Recreation Grounds.**

Progress, towards the provision of additional recreational facilities, continued during the year, by land reclamation schemes at Blaydon and Rowlands Gill refuse disposal points.



### Summary of Sanitary Defects and Nuisances Remedied—General Summary

	No. of Inspect- ions	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Statutory Notices Served	Defects Remedied After Notice
<b>Housing:—</b>				
Public Health and Housing Acts ... ..	1563	142	4	326
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
<b>Sanitary Conveniences:—</b>				
Insufficient ... ..	4	2	—	2
Defective ... ..	70	54	—	46
Drainage ... ..	221	49	—	38
Water Supply ... ..	69	25	—	16
Food Premises ... ..	473	87	—	55
Shops Act ... ..	141	34	—	26
Dairies ... ..	—	—	—	—
<b>Slaughterhouses:—</b>				
Public ... ..	—	—	—	—
Private ... ..	96	2	—	2
Tents, Vans, etc. ... ..	14	4	—	4
Offensive Trades ... ..	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces ... ..	38	9	—	9
Keeping of Animals ... ..	8	3	—	3
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ... ..	244	214	—	244
Offensive Accumulations ... ..	10	4	—	4
Clean Air Act, 1956 ... ..	726	39	83	162
<b>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ... ..</b>				
Local Authority Premises ... ..	46	—	—	—
Dwelling Houses ....	53	—	—	—
Business Premises ... ..	130	—	—	—
Agricultural Premises ... ..	36	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3942</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>937</b>

## **VI. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

### **1. Milk and Milk Products.**

#### **Milk**

This District is part of a specified area in which only milk of specified designation may be sold.

The provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1960, relating to the granting of Dealers' Licences, authorising the use of 'special designations,' had effect from 1st January, 1961 and all such licences are now granted by the Food and Drugs Authority which, for this District, is the Durham County Council.

Four dairies, which are used mainly as receiving depots, remain registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

5 pints equivalent weight of canned milk were found to be unsound, voluntarily surrendered, and disposed of so as to prevent its use for human consumption.

#### **Ice Cream.**

One establishment is registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream. The apparatus used in the manufacture of the product is of modern design which enables the occupier of the premises to comply fully with the requirements of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

### **2. Meat and Meat Products.**

#### **Meat**

125 lbs. of liver were ascertained to be diseased after slaughter and accordingly disposed of and not offered for sale for human consumption.

#### **Meat Products**

717 lbs. canned meat were found to be unsound, voluntarily surrendered and disposed of so as to prevent its use for human consumption.

## Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	92	—	—	159	16
Number inspected	92	—	—	159	16
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticer- cosis</b>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	19%	—	—	—	—
<b>Tuberculosis Only</b>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Cysticercosis Only</b>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Four slaughterman licences, granted under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, were in force during the year.

### 3. Other Foods.

The following other food products were found to be unsound, voluntarily surrendered and disposed of so as to prevent their use for human consumption.

Canned Foods	Weight
Fruit .....	208 lbs.
Vegetables .....	144 lbs.
Fish .....	1 lb.

### 4. Food Premises.

Routine inspections of all premises, used for manufacture, sale and storage of food, continued during the year and it was pleasing to note that the general standard of food hygiene practice in the District continues to improve.

Publicity material, comprising leaflets and extracts from legal statutes, were constantly being circulated amongst occupiers of food premises and other food handlers to assist them in recognising their responsibilities and obligations under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960.

Minor contraventions of the Regulations were dealt with on the spot by the Public Health Inspectors at the time of inspection whilst more serious acts of default were reported to the Council and appropriate action taken.

Visits to food premises totalled 473 and, in 87 cases, it was found necessary to serve written notices drawing attention to non-compliance of the Regulations. The notices were complied with before the end of the year.

## 5. Food Sampling.

The Durham County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the District and enforces the sampling provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

### List of Samples taken in the District during the year ended 31st December, 1963

	48 Milk
	1 Rice
	1 Mixed Dried Fruit
	1 Lemon Curd
	2 Epsom Salts
	1 Desiccated Coconut
Informal	1 Sago Milk Pudding
	2 Corned Beef
	1 Sultanas
	1 Lentils
	1 Coconut Cakes
	1 Chocolate Cake Covering
Informal	1 Blueberry Pie Filling
	1 Beef Sausage (preserved)
	1 Beef Sausage Meat (preserved)
	1 Potted Meat
	1 Pease Pudding
Informal	1 Processed Peas
Informal	1 Seasoning with Preservative
	4 Beer
Informal	1 Salt
Informal	1 Flour
Informal	1 Semolina
Informal	1 Sausage Rusks
Informal	1 Custard Powder
Informal	1 Dried Egg
	1 Shell Macaroni
	1 Soup Mix
	1 Scotch Oatmeal
	1 Patina Rice
	1 Ready Brek



Informal	1 Creamed Mushrooms
	1 Rich Tea Biscuits
	1 Split Peas
	1 Plain Flour
	1 Shortcake Biscuits
Informal	1 Pineapple Pieces in Syrup
	2 Sugar
	2 Currants
	1 Walnuts
	1 Sausage (preserved)
	1 Snowballs (sweets)
	1 Fairy Drops (sweets)
	1 Rum and Butter Bon-bons
	1 Parsley Sauce Mix
	1 Custard Cream Biscuits
	1 Bemax
	1 Vironita
	1 Ginger Cordial
	1 Glycerine, Lemon and Honey Balsam
	1 Blackcurrant Juice Cordial
	1 Tea
	1 Curry Powder
Informal	1 Dairy Cream
Informal	1 Tinned Rice Pudding
	1 Sucron
	2 Halibut Liver Oil Capsules B.P.
	1 Halibut Oil Capsules
	1 Rose Hip Syrup
	1 Worm Syrup
	1 Ice Cream
	1 Mincement
Informal	1 Weetabix
Informal	1 All Bran

Included in the list are 11 samples taken at schools or school canteens.

All samples were certified to be of genuine quality with the exception of one of Halibut Oil Capsules which were found to be 44% deficient in vitamin A. The capsules were old stock.

At subsequent Court proceedings, a fine of £5 was imposed on the vendor concerned. and he was also ordered to pay costs of £3 10s.

## VII.

## HOUSING

With the exception of approximately 645 dwellings in the proposed Blaydon (Shibdon Street) Clearance Areas and a small number of isolated individual unfit houses, the Council's programme for slum clearance, which was submitted to the Ministry in accordance with the requirements of the 1954 Housing Act, is fairly well up to schedule.

Rehousing of the occupants from, and the demolition of, unfit houses subject to Orders made prior to 1963 continued steadily. 64 families were rehoused and 39 houses demolished.

During the year, the following Compulsory Purchase Orders in respect of unfit dwelling-houses were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government :—

- Winlaton (Church Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1962  
(21, 21a and 21b, Church Street)  
(Confirmed without modification)
- Winlaton (Hanover Square) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1962  
(12 to 30, even No's. Hanover Square)  
(Confirmed with slight modification)
- Winlaton (Ranson's Houses) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1962  
(2 to 10, even No's. Ranson's Houses)  
(Confirmed without modification)

The following dwellings were dealt with as individual unfit houses not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit :—

1-8 Low Spen Cottages	Demolition Orders
East House, North Street, Winlaton	Demolition Order
58 Rectory Lane, Winlaton	Demolition Order
1 Home Farm Cottages, Axwell Park	Closing Order
41 Front Street, Winlaton	Demolition Order
2 Stella Crossings, Stella	Demolition Order

### Number of Habitable Houses in the District.

Blaydon Ward .....	2,377
Winlaton Ward .....	3,368
Rowlands Gill Ward .....	2,009
High Spen Ward .....	666
Chopwell Ward .....	1,781
	<hr/>
Total	10,201
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## Overcrowding.

Complete statistics on overcrowding are not available but some indication of its extent may be deduced from the following figures supplied by the Housing Manager :

**Number of Listed Applicants for Council Houses**

Classification	Totals	Not Overcrowded	Overcrowded	% of Overcrowded Applicants
Families occupying premises as Tenants	476	405	71	14.9%
Families occupying premises as Sub - tenants	265	226	39	14.7%

Applications, for Council House accommodation, from persons living in overcrowded conditions, continued to be given a high priority by the Allocation Committee and has considerably alleviated the problem.

## Building.

New Houses completed during Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ...	63	—	63
(b) By any other Housing Authority ...	—	—	—
(c) By Private Persons ...	—	170	170

## Closing and Demolition of Houses.

### A. Formal Action.

- |     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| i   | Number of houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action .....       | 38  |
| ii  | Number of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action .....                                   | Nil |
| iii | Number of Houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed ..... | 16  |
| iv  | Number of houses in use as temporary accommodation (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Part 1) .....          | Nil |

**B. Informal Action.**

Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above .....	1
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**Reconditioning and Repair.**

Number of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts :	
(a) As a result of informal action .....	137
(b) By owners as a result of Statutory Notices .....	3
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	1

**Improvement Grants (Housing Acts, 1949-59).**

	Number of Separate Houses	
	Discretionary Grant	Standard Grant
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority .....	Nil	67
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority .....	Nil	Nil
(c) Total number of applications received since inception of Scheme .....	Nil	216
(d) Total number of grants paid .....	Nil	159



## APPENDIX

### Factories Act, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year, 1963, for the Urban District of Blaydon in the County of Durham.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factory Act, 1961.

#### Part I of the Act

#### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

PREMISES	Number of Premises on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	84	33	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	105	40	—	—

#### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were Found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
b) Unsuitable or defective	13	8	—	5	—
c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	8	—	5	—

### **Outworkers.**

There are six outworkers in the District all engaged in the making of wearing apparel. No case of default under Section 110 occurred and no action was necessary as regards unwholesome premises under Section 111.

## STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

John A. Dryden, M.A., B.Sc., M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H., D.I.H.

### SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

Wilson Joyce, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board.  
Cert. R.S.I. Inspector of Meat and Other Food.

### ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS :—

Edward Ridley, Cert. Public Health Inspectors Association Education **Board**.  
Cert. R.S.H. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.  
Cert. R.S.H. Smoke Inspector.

David Hubbick, Cert. Public Health Inspectors Association Education **Board**.  
Cert. R.S.H. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.  
(Resigned with effect from 1st December, 1963).

1 Vacancy since 1st December, 1963.

### PUPIL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

Derek R. Bottomley.

### DEPARTMENTAL CLERK :

Margaret Young.











